

**City of Reading City Council  
Regular Business Meeting  
Monday, October 14, 2013**

Council President Francis Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Councilor Corcoran.

All present pledged to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Acosta  
Councilor Corcoran, District 1  
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2  
Councilor Sterner, District 3  
Councilor Marmarou, District 4  
Councilor Reed, District 5  
Councilor Waltman, District 6  
City Auditor D. Cituk  
City Solicitor C. Younger  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Mayor V. Spencer

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Recognizing German Heritage Month, accepted by the Reading Liederkrantz
- Recognizing Fire Prevention Week, accepted by members of the Reading Fire Department
- Recognizing Northeast Tap Room, accepted by Dennis Haddock
- Recognizing Latino RHS Students
  - Erisson Contreras
  - Narda Caudillo
  - Carlos Cornelio
  - Elizabeth Gonzalez
  - Astrid Perez

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta reviewed the public speaking regulations and stated that seven (7) individuals are registered to address Council this evening on non agenda matters. He inquired if anyone objected to suspending the rule requiring non agenda comment at the end of the meeting. As no one objected, the rule was suspended. He reviewed the remaining

public speaking rules.

**George Stichter, of Moss Street**, stated that while he appreciates receiving a letter thanking him for providing public comment at Council. He questioned if the elected officials listen to the voices of the citizens who speak. He expressed the belief that elected officials should demonstrate that they have the ability to help citizens, especially the oppressed population.

**Iwona Pielchoty, of West Lawn**, stated that she owns rental properties and has a problem with billing trash and recycling on the water/sewer bill. She expressed the belief that Fulton Bank should accept cash payments in addition to payments by check, as checks take longer to process. She also suggested that Fulton begin issuing receipts for check payments. She stated that she should not be charged late fees when tenants pay late or fail to pay the combined bills.

**Alberto Perez, of Muhlenberg**, stated that he owns rental properties and he described the problems that tenant behavior creates for landlords. He expressed the belief that the landlord should not be ticketed or fined for issues created by the tenants.

**Jose Aparicio, of North Front Street**, was not present.

**Felix Guzman, of Oley Street**, was not present.

**Gale Rivera, of South 5<sup>th</sup> Street**, was not present.

**Jim McHale, of Bern Street**, expressed concern with the documentation Council receives during the budget process. He questioned the use of the Prior Year EIT on the budget. He expressed the belief that budgeting for EIT and Prior Year EIT is incorrect, as it appears to double book the same revenue. He offered to assist with the budget review and stated that he is available by telephone.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading, and the minutes for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of Council and the October 7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. He stated that Resolution D under the Resolution heading will be removed from the agenda.

**Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of Council, the October 7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and the agenda as amended, including the legislation under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**A. Resolution 78-2013** – In accordance with City of Reading Records Retention Policy and Document Retention Schedule, authorizing the disposition of contracts in the City Clerk's office dated 1955 through 1990, as listed. **(Council Staff)**

**B. Resolution 79-2013** – In accordance with City of Reading Records Retention Policy and Document Retention Schedule, authorizing the disposition of financial records in the CSC dated 19942-2005 as listed. **(CSC Manager)**

**C. Resolution 80-2013** – supporting the filing of an application to the DCED for the designation of a Keystone Enterprise Zone, which would encompass certain industrial and manufacturing areas within Reading **(Man Dir)**

**D. Award of Contract** - to Cargill, Inc. – Deicing Technology Business Unit, 24950 Country Club Blvd, Suite 450, North Olmsted, OH 77040, at a bid price of \$53.78 per ton for delivered salt and \$52.00 for picked-up salt for the Department of Public Works. Cargill Inc. is the low bidder to meet the specifications. **(Purchasing)**

**E. Award of Contract** - for the Sanitary Sewer Collection System to Hazen & Sawyer, 801 Market Street, Suite 1001, Philadelphia, PA 19107 to for a total price of \$847,727.82. **(Purchasing/Pub Works)**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Council President Acosta inquired if the Mayor had prepared a written report that could be distributed to Council. The Mayor stated that he is currently changing the format of his report and a written copy has not been prepared.

Mayor Spencer reported on the CRIZ (Community Reinvestment Improvement Zone) meeting held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Gateway Building at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Penn. He stated that the meeting was by invitation only and that there was a nice cross-section of the community present. He explained that the CRIZ is similar to the NIZ (Neighborhood Improvement Zone) that the State Legislature created for Allentown. He explained that the CRIZ legislation allows only two (2) of the nine (9) eligible cities to be approved in 2013 and that Reading will be applying using a working group similar to that used to prepare the Main Street application. He stated that a copy of the proposal will be provided to Council in advance.

Mr. Waltman stressed the need for the preparation of a strategic vision that pulls all these various initiatives together in a meaningful way. He stated that all initiatives need to be aligned.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting. In summary:

- Reduction in the sewer rate charged to outside municipalities
- Report on the collection of the 2013 Admissions Tax
- Report on the collection of the Real Estate Transfer Tax
- Report on the expenditure side of the annual operating budgets over the past 10 years

Councilors Waltman and Goodman-Hinnershitz asked the Auditor to prepare an additional report showing the escalation of the pension costs, debt service costs and the non debt service costs over this same time period.

## **REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS**

None.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**A. Bill No. 44-2013** - Authorizing the transfer of \$56,363 from the General Fund account code (01-07-74-4101) Light and Power to account code (01-07-74-4216) Contracted Services for the purpose of payment to Susquehanna Municipal Finance for the Honeywell contract. **(Pub Works)**  
*Introduced at the Sept 23 regular meeting*

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to table Bill No. 44-2013.**

**Bill No. 44-2013 was tabled by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,**  
**President - 7**  
**Nays: None - 0**

**B. Bill No. 45-2013** - Authorizing the transfer of \$ Transfer \$33,900.00 from 54-07-44-4525, Minor Capital Equipment, to the following: \$22,200.00 to 54-07-44-4000 Salaries; \$1,700.00 to 54-07-44-4913 Social Security; and \$10,000.00 to 54-07-44-4900 Fringe Benefits **(Bus Analyst)**  
*Introduced at the Sept 23 regular meeting*

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 45-2013.**

**Bill No. 45-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,**  
**President - 7**  
**Nays: None - 0**

**C. Bill No. 46-2013** - Transferring two Municipal Aide II positions in the Citizens Service Center Division of the Department of Administrative Services to the Waste Water Treatment

Division of the Department of Public Works. **(Bus Analyst) *Introduced at the Sept 23 regular meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 46-2013.**

**Bill No. 46-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 7  
Nays: None - 0**

**D. Bill No. 47-2013 - Authorizing the transfer of \$14,000.00 from the IT Salaries line item (01-06-23-4000) to the IT Consulting Services line item (01-06-23-4222). **(Bus Analyst) *Introduced at the Sept 23 regular meeting*****

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 47-2013.**

**Bill No. 47-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 7  
Nays: None - 0**

**E. Bill No. 48-2013 - Amending Chapter 308, Housing, of the City of Reading Code to provide for Part 3, Abandoned Real Property Registration. **(Law) *Introduced at the Sept 23 regular meeting; Advertised Oct 7<sup>th</sup>*****

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 48-2013.**

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Administration for their work on this issue. She noted how difficult it is to find the owners of some problem properties.

Councilor Corcoran stated that this ordinance is related to foreclosed properties.

**Bill No. 48-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
President - 7  
Nays: None - 0**

**F. Bill No. 49-2013** – amending Chapter 576 – Vehicles and Traffic, Part 12 Parades, Special Events, and Public Gatherings by making clarifications to the terms of the ordinance **(Bus Analyst)** *Introduced at the Sept 23 regular meeting; Advertised Oct 7th*

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to table Bill No. 49-2013.**

**Bill No. 49-2013 was tabled by the following vote:**

**Yeas:** Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
**President - 7**

**Nays:** None - 0

**G. Bill No. 50-2013** – authorizing the execution of a First Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Reading and Alvernia University to provide for the leasing of certain portions of Angelica and the baseball field area, as more specifically identified in Exhibit “A”. **(Law)** *Introduced at the Sept 23 regular meeting*

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 50-2013.**

Councilor Corcoran thanked Alvernia for being a good partner and a good neighbor.

**Bill No. 50-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas:** Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,  
**President - 7**

**Nays:** None - 0

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

**A. Ordinance** – Authorizing the transfer of \$ Transfer of \$300,000 from the 2013 General Fund Account 01-14-91-4739, Contingency, to 01-12-25-4216 Special Counsel - Contracted Services **(Bus Analyst)**

**B. Ordinance** – Amending the Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Section 208 Rules Of Procedure, by correcting the conflict regarding the submission of legislation and matters for inclusion on an agenda **(Council Staff)**

**C. Ordinance** – Amend the Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Section 203 Organization Meeting by eliminating the need to hold an organizational meeting during the first meeting of each year **(Council Staff)**

**D. Ordinance** – Amending Chapter 508, Section 700 of the City Code Book relating to street cuts making clarifications and changing the fee schedule for street cuts on streets that have been repaved **(Business Analyst) Advertised on October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**E. Ordinance** – Amending the Act 47 Recovery Plan by reducing the Commuter and Home Rule Resident EIT by 0.1%. **(PFM/Council Staff/Law)**

**F. Ordinance** – Amending the City of Reading Zoning Ordinance by making corrections and clarifications throughout **(Council Staff/Bus Anaylst) Advertised Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Public Hearing Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**

**G. Ordinance** – increasing the Home Rule Per Capita Tax to \$20 (Law) Public Hearing Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm; Advertised Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> (Pub Hearing), 28<sup>st</sup>, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

#### PENDING

**Ordinance** – 2014 General Fund Budget Advertised Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

**Ordinance** – 2014 Capital Improvement Program Budget Advertised Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

**Ordinance** – 2014 Position Ordinance

**Ordinance** – Resident Home Rule EIT; a tax of one and five tenths percent (1.5%) (Reduction of 0.1%) Advertised Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, Oct 7<sup>th</sup> and Oct 14<sup>th</sup>

**Ordinance** – Commuter EIT; a tax of up to a maximum of one and two tenths percent (1.2%) (Reduction of 0.1%) Advertised Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, Oct 7<sup>th</sup> and Oct 14<sup>th</sup>

#### RESOLUTIONS

**A. Resolution 81-2013**– appointing James Fegley to the Charter Board **(Nom & Appts)**

**B. Resolution 82-2013**– reappointing Todd Rathman to the Electrician’s Examining Board **(Nom & Appts)**

**C. Resolution 83-2013** – appointing Barbara Coyle to the Environmental Advisory Council **(Nom & Appts)**

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolutions 81-83-2013.**

Councilors Marmarou and Reed noted the skill and abilities those appointed will bring to the boards they are appointed to serve.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she recently encouraged college students to apply; however she questioned the eligibility of students due to the residency requirement.

The Solicitor stated that his initial opinion is that students are not permanent residents.

Council President Acosta encouraged more citizens to apply for seats on Boards, Authorities and Commissions.

**Resolution No. 81-83 -2013 were adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta, President - 7**

**Nays: None - 0**

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS / COMMENTS**

Councilor Reed noted the passing of Nelson Stubbs, who was a pillar of the Centre Park community.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz announced that the Rec Commission is sponsoring a hayride at Schlegel Park this Friday and Saturday. She encouraged the public to volunteer and attend this event. She noted the work of the Commission to bring events to the community.

Councilor Waltman stated that he will work to develop legislation to prohibit people and businesses from placing flyers on the windshields of cars, as these flyers quickly turn into litter.

Councilor Sterner thanked those who provided comment at tonight's meeting and congratulated those honored with commendations.

Mayor Spencer explained the use of the Prior Year EIT line item.

Council wished Council President Acosta a happy birthday.

Council President Acosta reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*